

New Railway Division at Pune

616 SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to create a new railway Division at Pune under the Central Railway, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Pune is one of the locations amongst others where it is planned to set up a Divisional Headquarters Office on Central Railway.

Provision for this has been made in Supplementary Demands-for-Grants 1995-96.

[Translation]

Participation of Public in Environmental Protection

617 SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether participation of public in regard to pollution control and other environmental issues is being encouraged by the Government

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the facilities being provided by the Government to encourage participation of public therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Public participation is encouraged to control environmental pollution and eco-regeneration with the help of various schemes such as National Environmental Awareness Campaign, Paryavaran Vahinis, Eco Clubs, Seminars, symposium, workshops, afforestation programmes, etc. Financial assistance is provided to various non-governmental organisations and institutions to implement these schemes at grass root level.

(c) Does not arise

(d) The facilities provided by the Government to encourage participation of public to control pollution include the following:

- A Pollution Awareness and Assistance Centre (PAAC) has been set up for priority participatory programmes on prevention and control of pollution.
- Quarterly interaction meeting between the pollution control authorities and non-governmental organisations are held at regular intervals.

- Water testing kits are distributed amongst various NGOs and science students to undertake the water quality assessment.
- Quarterly newsletter (PARIVESH) is published by Central Pollution Control Board to provide the information about various techniques of pollution abatement to the public.
- A concession is provided on the CPCB publications to those NGOs who are enlisted for pollution control activities.
- A public notice was issued in Delhi based newspapers to make the people aware of the ill-effects of Municipal solid wastes and how they can manage the waste with the help of local authorities.
- Public institutions have been involved to create awareness about the causes of river pollution and to regulate bathing and cremation which helped the implementation of Ganga Action programme.

[English]

Funds for Natural Calamities

618 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the allocation made to Rajasthan to deal with the natural calamities during the last three years.

(b) whether the amount of grant is far less as compared to the other States.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken to provide more funds to Rajasthan for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Rajasthan had an annual allocation of Rs. 124.00 crores under the Calamity Relief Fund during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95. During 1995-96, the allocation was Rs. 168.99 crores.

(b) No, Sir. Rajasthan has the highest Calamity Relief Fund allocation among the States.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation in Neelanchal Express

619 SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is no provision for reservation in the Neelanchal Express for Anugrah Narayan Road